

Femailings



Womaen's Caucus Church of the Brethren

One Woman, All Women

May 2016

The Annual Conference Issue

The Steering Committee is getting excited about seeing folks at Annual Conference. While this year's conference will be emotionally challenging with two queries questioning On Earth Peace's inclusivity and direction as an agency of COB and one directed at how to deal with ministers who officiate same gender marriages, we are looking forward to spending time with one another and helping create a safe, loving and restorative space at conference this year.

This space starts with our booth. We have designed a booth that will be a place to hang out, recharge and find comfort. This year a rug is being donated from youth at Augustine United Church in Edinburgh, Scotland to help create this community space. We are invited to add to it and participate in an ecumenical art project. There will be tea and coffee breaks and we have purchased some "I'll go with you" stickers to support trans folk, although we have been told the convention center is a safe space. We look forward to seeing some of you at the booth.

Our annual luncheon and silent auction event is **Friday July 1st at 12** in Imperial G&H. Our speaker will be Shirley Kirkwood. Shirley was a member of the Steering Committee in the 80s. She says this about caucus: "I am grateful for my many experiences as caucus worker which led to many relationships that remain today. I believe caucus has made a difference in the ways women know themselves as well as being seen as more equal participants within the church and society. So much more to learn and integrate into our lives." Come hear her speak and enjoy connections and conversations about women as we carry the light.



Please bring items to fill out our silent auction. This is our largest fundraising event of the year and one of best ways to help support us. We auction off any item gratefully such as jewelry, shirts, handcrafts, cards, art, quilts and anything you would fancy buying yourself. If you are not attending Annual Conference but you wish to send something for the silent auction or if you don't think your auction item will be easy for you to get to conference yourself. Please send them to this address before June 10th:

Womaen's Caucus Auction
c/o Karen Duhai
464 SW 5th Street
Richmond IN 47374



We are leading an Insight Session this year, hosted by On Earth Peace, called Biblical Basis for Inclusion: Women in Leadership on **Saturday July 2nd at 9pm** in Pinehurst. Four of our Steering Committee members will be facilitating this discussion about women's stories in the Bible that challenge and inspire us. We look forward to sharing this space with you.

We are continuing our prayer for women on the ballot, for the third year in a row. This year seven out of the twenty names on the ballot are women. In two contests both nominations are women. The prayer will be on **Thursday June 30th at 1:40pm** at our booth. We pray so that those voting may think about the gender inequality that those who do not identify as male face throughout their daily lives, but especially in decisions like these. We pray to acknowledge the difficulty and bravery it takes to be nominated and put yourself in a position where you are voted on. We pray for those who are not elected, that they may feel empowered by the process and continue to do good work in the world.

Pictures from the Past

A big shout out to Shirley Kirkwood, our speaker for our luncheon at Annual Conference this year, who sent us these photos from Womaen's Caucus in the late 1980s. We are really excited that these exist! It is great to see our roots and our history. If you have any stories you would like to share with us about these pictures please email us.



Back row: Paula Stanley, Janine Katonah, Barbara Nielsen, Dena Pence (Frantz), Susie Sassenberg, Barbara Cuffy, Judith (Kipp) Gipple, Judy Mills Reimer
Front Row: Wilma Dottie Steele, Margaret Whitacre, Shirley Kirkwood
March 7, 1987 Douglas Park Church of the Brethren



Carol ?, Dottie Steele, Janine Katonah, Sandra Simmons, Judith Kipp



Left to right: Paula Stanley, Susie Sassenberg, Dena Pence (Frantz), Janine Katonah

Caucus Steering Committee Meeting March 5-8, 1987 at home of Mary and Ed Stowe in Lombard, IL



Back bench: Ben Simmons, Paula Stanley, Barbara Nielsen, Shirley Kirkwood (hidden)

Front bench: Susie Sassenberg, Janine Katonah, Dena Pence (Frantz), Sandra Simmons

Elizabethtown, PA



Meditations

We are starting a new section of Femailings that will be a regular feature. A space that will help encourage a bit of spiritual reflection, for this first one we have started with the Steering Committee's favorite Bible verses.

Jen Scarr—

Romans 8:18 "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us."

With everything going on in Syria, Nigeria, France and countless other places around the world - it is a comfort and an inspiration to me that something better is coming. That the glory of God is on the way and already happening. That peace is coming, acceptance is coming, hospitality is coming...and it is about to be revealed.

Sara Davis—

Psalms 121:1-2 I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Matthew 8:23-27 Then he got into the boat and his disciples followed him. ²⁴ Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵ The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We're going to drown!" ²⁶ He replied, "You of little faith, why are you so afraid?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. ²⁷ The men were amazed and asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Isaiah 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.

1 John 4:16 ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

Matthew 5:43-48 ⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor^[a] and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Jonathan Bay—

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.

I love the community aspect of this! This verse reminds me that we have to work together.

Mary Kay Ogden—

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to

heal; a time to break down and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

I find the change of seasons, and the contrasts in this scripture give me a sense of purpose and reassurance. Farming is also part of my heritage, though I am not a farmer, it has been an important part of my upbringing. While some of the statements cause me concern (kill and war), they are realities in our world.

Karen Duhai—

I have a number of favorite scriptures, but I also feel that scriptures come into our lives for a season when there's something in particular that we need to learn. The scripture that I am living with these days is John 12:1-8, in which Jesus' feet are anointed by Mary. The intimacy of that action makes many of us, myself included, deeply uncomfortable. But I believe it also teaches us what it means to live out a radical love for one another. Truly embodying Christ's call to love one another often requires us to do things that make no sense to other people. But it makes sense to God. As more and more people find themselves displaced or just out of place in this world, I am prayerfully struggling to find ways to live out Christ's call to love and to anoint the journeys of my brothers and sisters.

Kathy Gingrich—

Genesis 3:21 "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. Woven into our story of creation and "fall", God **anticipates** and makes provision for our needs. Despite the "eviction" notice from the Garden of Eden, God "clothes" us with the ability to go on. God's clothing us includes giving us both physical and emotional "skins". The emotional skins include "defense mechanisms" and "coping skills" to move forward in the midst of our brokenness.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Wherever we have been, wherever we are, wherever we will be in the future, God already has been, is and will be. Nothing – not even terrorists, death, illness, brokenness, candidates in an election year, disillusionment, broken heartedness...**nothing** can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus.



Quilt square made by

Sara Davis

A Prayer

Living spirit,
settle within us,
let the clouds break upon us with blessing,
let us travel to the new without apprehension,
turn this world upside down.

Holy one,
settle between us
within our communities,
let us trust that the clouds will break upon us with blessing,
let us trust change,
let us turn the world upside down
through radical action and love.

God creator,
settle on us,
enveloping our world leaders and shapers,
let clouds break upon us all and bless us
into action that remembers justice, that remembers
the young, the refugees,
all who suffer abuse we prefer to ignore or forget,
let them travel to the new without apprehension,
but with courage and strength, take away the fear language
that arises from change,
let them know they can turn the world upside down
in good ways and bad, and understand the difference.

With these prayers we seed the clouds of blessing.
With these prayers we plan the new.
With these prayers we begin to turn the world.

Jonathan Bay



Article Submissions

If you would like to write something for a Femailings issue, feel free to submit anytime to womaenscaucuscob@gmail.com or by mail to Womaens Caucus 818 SW 3rd Street #1299, Portland, OR 97204. The deadline for the September issue, which will be an Annual Conference wrap up is **August 15th, 2016**.

Would you like to become a part of Womaen's Caucus? Are you passionate about women's issues within the church and the wider world? We would love to have you! Please contact us through our email: womaenscaucuscob@gmail.com

Womaen's Caucus Steering Committee

Kathy Gingrich, Convener
Sara Davis
Karen Duhai
Mary Kay Ogden
Jennifer Scarr
Daisy Schmidt



Womaen's Caucus Needs Your Financial Support to Continue

With your continued support Womaen's Caucus can do so much to help further our mission of decreasing prejudice within the Church, empowering women and advocating for people on the margins. This year we have put a lot of energy into being an advocate for SCN members and creating a safe space at Annual Conference. We are thinking about tangible ways in which we can live out our mission and build our community but also reconnect with the community that caucus has built over the past 40 years. We appreciate your support!

Complete the form below or donate online through our website at www.womaenscaucus.org

Make checks out to: Womaen's Caucus

Cut & mail to: Womaen's Caucus 818 SW 3rd Ave. #1299 Portland, OR 97204

Name: _____	Contribution	Membership
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> I am already a member.
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership—\$25/yr
_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> Student Member—\$15/yr
Email: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Femailings
Phone: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Already Receiving
District/Home Church (if applicable)		<input type="checkbox"/> Send by Mail
_____		<input type="checkbox"/> Send by Email